

Against Drunk Driving, or Lech Walesa, or now Rosa Parks.

Rosa Parks caused this Nation to take note of what it needed to do to end the scourge of segregation. She is not just a national hero, she is the embodiment of our social and human conscience. It is an appropriate and fitting thing that we do here today. I am proud to be a part of it and I hope that generations to come for many, many years will walk past the statue of Rosa Parks in our Nation's Capitol and make a quiet determination to find a moment when they may be as courageous and as noble as this wonderful woman.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, it is important that today the Senate is honoring a true national hero, Mrs. Rosa Parks. As you know, I introduced legislation to honor Rosa Parks with a statue in National Statuary Hall. I thank the chair of the Rules Committee, Senator MCCONNELL, and the ranking member, Senator DODD, for amending their legislation to designate Statuary Hall as a venue for a tribute to this great American. I think it is important we ensure that the memory of Rosa Parks is honored by placing a statue of her in the U.S. Capitol so future generations can understand her monumental efforts for civil rights and know the importance of living by her example still today.

I thank Senators MCCONNELL and DODD for working with me and amending their resolution to ensure that Statuary Hall is considered as a possible location for the statue of Mrs. Parks. I also thank the numerous Senators who supported my legislation, S. 1959. I am supporting Mr. MCCONNELL's and Mr. DODD's measure today because I believe it is paramount that we honor Rosa Parks in our Capitol, but I want to be very clear that her statue should be in Statuary Hall.

On November 3, 2005, I introduced legislation to place a statue of Rosa Parks in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. This is a location of great significance, particularly on this occasion and particularly with this individual. While there are memorials for prominent African Americans in the Capitol Collection, none of those are located in the hall that gives a state-by-state account of our country's history. In the struggle for civil rights, some were called to stand up to Bull Connor's fire hoses and police dogs—some to stand up to Klan terrorism—and some to stand up to state sponsored acts of violence. But some were called simply to sit down—at lunch counters in Greensboro and Nashville and Atlanta—or on a bus in Montgomery. This simple action of peaceful opposition to existing rules had a significant impact on the lives of all Americans. Her act of courage on December 1, 1955, inspired a movement that eventually brought about laws to end segregation, ensure voting rights, end discrimination in housing, and create a greater equality throughout this Nation.

It should be noted that I have been working closely with my colleagues in the House of Representatives, particularly with Representative JESSE JACKSON JR. from Illinois, whose bill has over 175 cosponsors to honor Rosa Parks in Statuary Hall. It is identical in content to my original bill, S. 1959, to ensure that Mrs. Parks' statue is placed in Statuary Hall. When the House passes Representative JACKSON's bill, it is my intention to bring that legislation up for a vote in the Senate to ensure that her memory is enshrined in the most hallowed halls of our Government.

This week, Representative JACKSON and I began a national week of action to pass our legislation honoring Rosa Parks with a statue in National Statuary Hall. Our goal is to have Congress pass both bills by December 1, 2005—the 50th anniversary of Rosa Parks' courageous decision not to move to the back of the bus.

Rosa Parks was one of our greatest American heroes, a woman whose quiet courage changed a country. She deserves the highest honors this country can give. I can think of no better way to honor the 50th anniversary of Rosa Parks' brave act against injustice than by passing legislation that ensures that schoolchildren, Members of Congress and presidents visiting the Capitol can see how highly our Nation thinks of her, and that we need to follow her example of refusing to go quietly to the back of the bus.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2585) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

On page 1, line 7, at the end add the following: "The Joint Committee on the Library shall consider all locations in the Capitol, including Statuary Hall, the Rotunda, and the Capitol Visitor Center."

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 62), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

(The resolution will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 217, S. 1234.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1234) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask unanimous consent that the Craig amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2584) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Section 1114 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "\$106" and inserting "\$112";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "\$205" and inserting "\$218";

(3) in subsection (c), by striking "\$316" and inserting "\$337";

(4) in subsection (d), by striking "\$454" and inserting "\$485";

(5) in subsection (e), by striking "\$646" and inserting "\$690";

(6) in subsection (f), by striking "\$817" and inserting "\$873";

(7) in subsection (g), by striking "\$1,029" and inserting "\$1,099";

(8) in subsection (h), by striking "\$1,195" and inserting "\$1,277";

(9) in subsection (i), by striking "\$1,344" and inserting "\$1,436";

(10) in subsection (j), by striking "\$2,239" and inserting "\$2,393";

(11) in subsection (k)—

(A) by striking "\$82" both places it appears and inserting "\$87"; and

(B) by striking "\$2,785" and "\$3,907" and inserting "\$2,977" and "\$4,176", respectively;

(12) in subsection (l), by striking "\$2,785" and inserting "\$2,977";

(13) in subsection (m), by striking "\$3,073" and inserting "\$3,284";

(14) in subsection (n), by striking "\$3,496" and inserting "\$3,737";

(15) in subsections (o) and (p), by striking "\$3,907" each place it appears and inserting "\$4,176";

(16) in subsection (r), by striking "\$1,677" and "\$2,497" and inserting "\$1,792" and "\$2,669", respectively; and

(17) in subsection (s), by striking "\$2,506" and inserting "\$2,678".

(b) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Section 1115(1) of such title is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "\$127" and inserting "\$135";

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "\$219" and "\$65" and inserting "\$233" and "\$68", respectively;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking "\$86" and "\$65" and inserting "\$91" and "\$68", respectively;

(4) in subparagraph (D), by striking "\$103" and inserting "\$109";

(5) in subparagraph (E), by striking "\$241" and inserting "\$257"; and

(6) in subparagraph (F), by striking "\$202" and inserting "\$215".

(c) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN DISABLED VETERANS.—Section 1162 of such title is amended by striking "\$600" and inserting "\$641".

(d) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES.—

(1) NEW LAW DIC.—Section 1311(a) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$967” and inserting “\$1,033”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$208” and inserting “\$221”.

(2) OLD LAW DIC.—The table in paragraph (3) of such section is amended to read as follows:

Pay grade	Monthly rate	Pay grade	Monthly rate
E-1	\$1,033	W-4	\$1,236
E-2	1,033	O-1	1,092
E-3	1,033	O-2	1,128
E-4	1,033	O-3	1,207
E-5	1,033	O-4	1,277
E-6	1,033	O-5	1,406
E-7	1,069	O-6	1,585
E-8	1,128	O-7	1,712
E-9	1,177 ¹	O-8	1,879
W-1	1,092	O-9	2,010
W-2	1,135	O-10	2,204 ²
W-3	1,169		

¹ If the veteran served as sergeant major of the Army, senior enlisted advisor of the Navy, chief master sergeant of the Air Force, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, or master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse's rate shall be \$1,271.

² If the veteran served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Commandant of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse's rate shall be \$2,365.”

(3) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR CHILDREN OR DISABILITY.—Section 1311 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking “\$241” and inserting “\$257”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “\$241” and inserting “\$257”; and

(C) in subsection (d), by striking “\$115” and inserting “\$122”.

(e) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR CHILDREN.—

(1) DIC WHEN NO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Section 1313(a) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$410” and inserting “\$438”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$590” and inserting “\$629”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$767” and inserting “\$819”; and

(D) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$767” and “\$148” and inserting “\$819” and “\$157”, respectively.

(2) SUPPLEMENTAL DIC FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN.—Section 1314 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “\$241” and inserting “\$257”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “\$410” and inserting “\$438”; and

(C) in subsection (c), by striking “\$205” and inserting “\$218”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on December 1, 2005.

(g) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am extremely pleased that the Senate will pass legislation that will authorize a cost-of-living adjustment, COLA, for veterans' compensation for next year.

The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005 directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase, as of December 1, 2005, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled adult children, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

This increase will be the same percentage as the increase provided to So-

cial Security recipients. The increase this year is one of the largest in recent memory—4.1 percent. In my opinion, this increase could not have come at a more crucial time. The COLA is enormously important to veterans and their families. It is critical that veterans' disability compensation rates keep pace with the increasing cost-of-living. Without it, these people would be unable to afford the simple necessities of life. I note, it is well documented that home heating fuel costs will skyrocket this winter. The COLA increase goes a long way to ensuring no veterans are left out in the cold.

Mr. President, in closing, I thank all Senators that voted to support this Nation's veterans.

The bill (S. 1234), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate en bloc consideration of the following bills reported out of the Energy Committee: Calendar Nos. 236 through 240; 242 through 249; 262 through 273; and H.R. 1972, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments at the desk be agreed to, the committee-reported amendments, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, the bills, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and passed, and the title amendments be agreed to, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGIC TRAIL DESIGNATION ACT

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill (S. 206) to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment, as follows:

[Strike the parts shown in black brackets and insert the parts shown in italic.]

S. 206

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[This Act may be cited as the “Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Designation Act of 2005”.]

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

[(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

[(1) at the end of the last Ice Age, some 12,000 to 17,000 years ago, a series of cataclysmic floods occurred in what is now the northwest region of the United States, leaving a lasting mark of dramatic and distinguishing features on the landscape of parts of the States of Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon;

[(2) geological features that have exceptional value and quality to illustrate and interpret this extraordinary natural phenomenon are present on Federal, State, tribal, county, municipal, and private land in the region; and

[(3) in 2001, a joint study team headed by the National Park Service that included about 70 members from public and private entities completed a study endorsing the establishment of an Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail—

[(A) to recognize the national significance of this phenomenon; and

[(B) to coordinate public and private sector entities in the presentation of the story of the Ice Age floods.

[(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail in the States of Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, enabling the public to view, experience, and learn about the features and story of the Ice Age floods through the collaborative efforts of public and private entities.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

[In this Act:

[(1) ICE AGE FLOODS; FLOODS.—The term “Ice Age floods” or “floods” means the cataclysmic floods that occurred in what is now the northwestern United States during the last Ice Age from massive, rapid and recurring drainage of Glacial Lake in Missoula, Montana.

[(2) PLAN.—The term “plan” means the cooperative management and interpretation plan authorized under section 5(f).

[(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

[(4) TRAIL.—The term “Trail” means the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail designated by section 4(a).